

**Speed Post Service In Gujarat**

6296. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the district headquarters in Gujarat where speed post service is still not available and the reasons therefor; and

(b) the time by which all the district headquarters are likely to be covered under this network?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) District Headquarters in Gujarat where Speed Post service is still not available:-

(1) Himatnagar, (2) Mehsana, (3) Palanpur, (4) Surendranagar, (5) Amreli, (6) Jamnagar, (7) Junagadh (8) Kheda, (9) Bharuch, (10) Valsad, (11) Ahwa (Dang), (12) Godhra, (13) Bhavnagar, (14) Bhuj.

Provision of Speed Post facility is an on-going process and is provided on the basis of commercial viability and operational feasibility of the service at a particular place. Provision of Speed Post facility at the above mentioned places is at present not justified.

(b) In view of reply at (a) above, does not arise.

**Shortage of Coaches and Wagons**

6297. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL:

DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of passenger coaches and wagons in the country and old Coaches are in the use;

(b) if so, the details thereof; zone-wise

(c) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether transportation of foodgrains to Uttar Pradesh has affected badly due shortage of wagons;

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to solve this problem;

(f) whether the Government propose to set up any third coach manufacturing factory; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) For running scheduled train services, there is no shortage of coaches. However taking into account the component of overaged coaches in the total fleet, there is shortage of GSs and SLRs. Besides, for running additional trains and special trains there is shortage. There is no shortage of wagons. However, some phase difference between placement of demands and supply is inescapable.

(c) More GSs and SLRs are proposed to be procured in 1997-98.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) The present manufacturing capacity in the country is considered adequate to meet current requirements.

[Translation]

**Recruitment of Trainees Pilots**

6298. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for adopting different criteria for the recruitment of trainees pilots in Air India and Indian Airlines;

(b) whether the qualification of commercial Pilot licence is essential for trainees pilots in Indian Airlines while in Air India other than commercial Pilot licence the experience of Multi Engine is required whereas the Government provide scholarship only upto commercial pilot licence and not for multi engine; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (c) The criteria for pilot induction vary from airline to airline, depending upon the type of aircraft in the fleet and operational route structure.

While in Indian Airlines Commercial Pilot's Licence (CPL) is essential for trainee pilots, in Air India the criterion for trainee pilots has been kept as CPL with Multi Engine Endorsement, in view of the big jet aircraft in the fleet and the high density international routes on which Air India operates.

**Target of Telephone Line In Gujarat**

6299. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for laying of telephone lines in Gujarat during the current year;

(b) the number of lines laid till date;

(c) the number of circles running behind the target;

(d) the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the annual target?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The target for new telephone connections in Gujarat during 1997-98 is 208000 lines.

(b) As on 30.4.97, 5880 new connections were provided.

(c) and (d) The circle wise targets for telephone lines are not fixed month-wise. The targets have been fixed for the complete financial year 1997-98.

(e) Necessary materials and other equipments are being made available to achieve the annual target.

[English]

#### **Restoration of Pension**

6300. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have studied the Supreme Court judgement dated December 15, 1995 regarding restoration of 1/3 commuted portion of the pension in the case of those Central Government employees who had opted for lump sum payment of admissible pro-rata pension at the time of their absorption in Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter;

(c) the particulars of the applications received in this regard from the retired officers of the then Delhi Telephones District by the Chief General Manager, MTNL, Delhi Telephones, New Delhi; and

(d) the time likely to be taken by the authorities concerned to dispose them off and sanction the restoration of the pension to these aged pensioners?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Supreme Court Judgement dated 15.12.1995 has been circulated to All Heads of Telecom Circles, for strict compliance of the Judgement.

(c) Two.

(d) The cases received are being settled, in pursuance of Department of Pension and P. W. guidelines.

#### **Complaints Against Products of Bokaro Steel Plant**

6301. PROF. RITA VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints made by the customers regarding the quality of various products of Bokaro Steel Plant (BSP) during the last three years;

(b) the names of products about which maximum number of complaints have been received;

(c) whether deductions were made in the bills of those customers as a reason of poor quality of product;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken for improvement in the quality of each product?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (e)

The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

#### **Passenger Service Fee Hike at Bangalore Airport**

6302. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the passenger services fee has been hiked in Bangalore Airport from January 7, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the additional passengers facilities provided there consequent upon the above hike;

(d) the present passenger services fee; and

(e) the average amount collected every day?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) Passenger Service Fee (PSF) has been increased to Rs. 125/- per domestic passenger at all airports in the country and is not limited to bangalore airport only. This amount would be used to meet the expenditure on providing passengers amenities as well as airport security.

(c) Improvement of passenger amenities is a continuous process and it is not possible to indicate the additional facilities provided with the increased amount. At Bangalore airport, domestic departure terminal has been completed and an integrated terminal block is under construction for providing improved passenger facilities.

(d) The present passenger service fee is Rs. 125/- per embarking domestic passenger.

(e) The average amount collected every day by way of PSF at Bangalore Airport is Rs. 2.98 lakhs (approx.).

#### **International Standard of Navigation and Communication**

6303. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the international standard of Navigation and Communication; and

(b) the reasons for not implementing it?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The International Civil Aviation Organisation has formulated standards and recommended practices for various ground-based, navigational and communication systems. These standards are applicable globally. The Airports Authority of India has taken action to comply with these standards. The ground-based navigational and communication systems and ATC procedures adhere to recommended standards. The performance of ground-based systems is regularly monitored by dedicated and suitably equipped aircraft, to ensure performance level within the stipulated standards. The Government is committed to provision of CNS facilities fully meeting the international standards.